

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01691 211536Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 IO-13 EUR-12  
DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00  
/075 W

-----211541Z 025149 /46

O 211510Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3191

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1691

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, ET  
SUBJ: PRESENCE OF WESTERN PRESS IN ETHIOPIA

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 1594, B. STATE 61238

1. CHARGE DISCUSSED PROBLEM POSED REFTEL (A) WITH UK AND FRENCH AMBS MORNING MAR 19. UK AMB DAY NOT AWARE OF POSSIBLE PROBLEM. FRENCH AMB BARBIER HAD HEARD OF IT FROM AFP REP (PROBABLY STIMULATED BY OTTAWAY). BOTH HAVE ASKED FOR INSTRUCTIONS. IN CASE OF UK AMB, HOWEVER, HE FIRST TALKED TO REUTERS REP, WHO WAS FULLY FAMILIAR WITH OTTAWAY'S CONCERN. REUTERS MAN, HOWEVER, WAS NOT AS CONFIDENT AS OTTAWAY THAT PROBLEM IS REAL, AND TOLD DAY THAT HE WOULD PREFER THAT DAY NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN DEMARCHE ON HIS BEHALF SINCE REUTERS, INTER ALIA, WAS "INTERNATIONAL" ORGANIZATION UNLIKE WASHPOST WHICH TALKING ONLY FOR ITSELF. REUTERS MAN THOUGHT THIS WAS GOOD TIME TO LAY LOW AND NOT ROCK BOAT. HE CONCLUDED BY ASKING THAT IF I MAKE DEMARCHE, IT SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDE REUTERS.

2. DAY THEN ASKED FOR INSTRUCTIONS ANYWAY, BUT SURMISED LONDON WOULD PROBABLY DEFER TO REUTERS RECOMMENDATION FROM HERE ON MUCH SAME GROUND, I.E., NOW WAS NOT TIME TO  
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RAISE QUESTION OF PRESS WITH EPMG, AN ACTION THAT MIGHT PUT THOUGHTS IN THEIR HEADS THAT MAY NOT NOW BE THERE.

3. BARBIER SIMPLY SAID HE WOULD REPORT OUR CONVERSATION AND ASK FOR INSTRUCTIONS. MEANWHILE, OTTAWAY HAS LEFT TOWN FOR ZAIRE FOR AN ESTIMATED TEN DAYS WITHOUT MY

HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH HIM FURTHER.

4. IF, AS MAY WELL TURN OUT TO BE CASE, BRITS AND  
REUTERS DO NOT WISH BE ASSOCIATED WITH MY DEMARCHE, I  
WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TALK TO EPMG ABOUT "WESTERN PRESS"  
PER REFTEL (B). I WILL REPORT SOONEST REACTIONS FROM  
LONDON AND PARIS, BUT MEANWHILE DEPT MAY WISH GIVE  
THOUGHT TO THIS POINT. IMMEDIATE PRESSURE MAKE PITCH  
HAS MEANWHILE PROBABLY EASED A TRIFLE WITH OTTAWAY OUT  
OF TOWN.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPULSION, JOURNALISTS, ANTIWEST  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 ADDIS ABABA 1594, 77 STATE 61238  
**Retention:** 0  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, ET  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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